

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A formalin-fixed organic waste processing method in which a formalin-fixed organic waste is subjected to a formalin neutralizing process and is then subjected to a decomposing process using an enzyme, and subsequently, a decomposed substance thus obtained is subjected to a drying process.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the formalin neutralizing process is carried out under heating by using a formalin neutralizer.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic waste is subjected to the formalin neutralizing process under a stirring and shearing load and the decomposing process using the enzyme.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the formalin neutralizer is slaked lime, sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to any of claims 1 or 2, wherein the formalin-fixed organic waste is an internal organ obtained by an operation or an autopsy.

6. (Original) A formalin-fixed organic waste processing method in which a formalin-fixed organic waste is processed by using a neutralizing and decomposing agent capable of neutralizing a formalin and dissolving an organic substance, and subsequently, is subjected to a drying process.

7. (Currently Amended) An organic waste processing apparatus comprising:
a processing chamber for processing a formalin-fixed organic waste;

a source of neutralizing enzymes;

a stirring paddle for stirring the organic waste in the processing chamber;

a driving motor for driving the stirring paddle;

a heater for heating an inside of the processing chamber;

air supply means for supplying air into the processing chamber;

exhaust means for discharging a gas in the processing chamber;

and

control means for controlling operations of the driving motor, the heater, the air supply means, the source of neutralizing enzymes, and the exhaust means for formalin-neutralizing the organic waste in the processing chamber under heating, for then decomposing the organic waste thus neutralized by using an enzyme supplied into the processing chamber, for thereafter drying the decomposed substance, and for discharging a gas generated at that time.

8. (Original) The processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the exhaust means comprises an exhaust path for nonforcibly discharging the gas in the processing chamber, or the exhaust path and a nontoxicity dehumidifying vessel interposed in the exhaust path and serving to make the discharged gas nontoxic and carry out a dehumidification.

9. (Original) The processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the nontoxicity dehumidifying vessel includes a catalyst processing chamber for making the discharged gas nontoxic and a condensing and removing vessel for condensing and removing at least a moisture in the discharged gas.

10. (Original) The processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the catalyst processing chamber includes a catalyst for deodorizing at least a residual formalin gas.

11. (Original) The processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the condensing and removing vessel comprises a condenser for condensing at least a moisture in the discharged gas and a tank for storing a condensate thus obtained.

12. (Previously Presented) The processing apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein an internal wall surface of the processing chamber further comprises a moisture content sensor for sensing a moisture content of a decomposed substance in a drying process and sending a sensing signal to the control means.

13. (Original) The processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a bottom face of an internal wall of the processing chamber has a semicircular section and the moisture content sensor is provided within a range of an angle of 45 degrees from the lowest part on the bottom face of the internal wall.

14. (Previously Presented) The processing apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the stirring paddle comprises a rotary shaft, a plurality of vertical blades protruded with an interval in an almost axial direction from the rotary shaft, and horizontal blades protruded from the vicinity of tips of the vertical blades to be free ends or to couple tip portions for each set, two horizontal blades making a pair.

15. (Previously Presented) The processing apparatus according to any one of claims 7 to 11, further comprising a check valve for preventing a back flow from the inside of the processing chamber between the processing chamber and the air supply means.